imports of DL-2-Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid and that records relating to fixation of responsibility have been removed from the Ministry's files;

(b) why the imports and their utilization have not been verified in this case;

(c) whether there is any specific prohibiton under any specific law which prevents the Minstry from doing so; and

(d) whether it is a fact that frauds worth crores of rupees have been committed in connivance with the Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) There is no such file in the Ministry dealing with the matter of misutilization of import of DL-2 Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid for the manufacture of bulk drug Ethambutol Hcl. However, there was a case relating to non adoption of latest data in the cost cum technical report for bulk drug Ethambutol prepared by the BICP in 1988.

M/s S. G. Pharmaceuticals

1281. PROF. I. G. SANADI :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2085 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are shielding M/s S. G. Pharmaceuticals and its contentions that there is no liability of the company into DPEA in respect of Xylocaine and its formulations, is wrong;

(b) why did the company file a writ petition in the Delhi High Court and obtained stay if there was no liability;

(c) what were the prices of Xylocaine formulations and on what price of Xylocaine and mark up they were based on whether Government stayed the formulation prices worked out by the Sub-Committee of the DPRC in 1981;

(d) why the records have not been verified and the House has been misinformed; and

(e) who is responsible for such a state of affairs and hobnobbing with the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Affairs of M/s ARISTO and M/s RHONE Poulanc

1282. PROF. I. G. SANADI :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2084 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether Government have legal and unassailable right under the DPCO and the essential commodities Act, 1955 to call for any information having a bearing on the price;

(b) if so, why M/s Rhone Poulanc and M/s Aristo have not been prosecuted so far for not furnishing information relating to Metronidazole procurement and price;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are soft pedalling the issue due to high connections of both the companies;

(d) what are the bulk drugs the production of which has been discontinued by M/s Rhone Poulanc and what are the bulk drugs produced by them from imported penultimates/intermediates; and

(e) why have they not gone basic and what was the import in terms of quantity and CIF value of each of these intermediates during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The notices to submit the required data to work out the liabilities under Para 7(2) of DPCO 1979 in respect of bulk drug Metronidazole were issued to M/s Rhone Poulanc and M/s Aristo. M/s Rhone Poulanc had requested for personal hearing which was granted to them in June, 1993 in which the company has raised some legal issues which have been referred to Ministry of Law for advice. M/s Aristo has not submitted any details in spite of repeated reminders and the company has been informed that in case of failure to submit the required details, Government would be left with no alternative, but to

work out the liabilities from whatever data become available from which ever source.

(d) and (e) To the extent information is available M/s Rhone Poulanc has stopped the production of bulk drug Sulphadiazine, Phthalyl Sulphathiazole, Metronidazole and Prochlor Peprazine. The information regarding manufacturing of drugs from imported penultimate intermediates and the details of import of the intermediates during the last 3 years will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

PAC recommendation on drugs

1283. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2072 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state:

(a) what action the Ministry has taken on the PAC recommendations in so far as drugs are concerned;

(b) what are the details of all those cases where CIF prices were increased when customs duty was reduced during the last two years;

(c) what steps have been taken to investigate the whole matter and what steps have been taken to fix responsibility;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s Cadila, M/s HAL and M/s PCI are importing Cefotaxin Sodium z at $ 1000 per Kg, CIF whereas M/s Hoechst is importing at over $1500 per Kg CIF and what action was taken to stop such practices; and

(e) what steps have been taken to investigate the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) As stated earliar in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2072 answered on 12-8-1993, the recommendations contained in the 5th report of the Public Accounts Committee, 10th Lok Sabha (1991-92) regarding monitoring of customs duty concessions, are general in nature and not specific to drugs. The Ministry of Finance has furnished an action taken note on the said recommendations of the Committee.

(b) and (c) Imports of bulk drugs/drug intermediates/raw materials are not monitored by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) To the extent information is available, the cif prices of various bulk drugs imported by companies vary depending upon the source of supply, quantity imported quality of the drugs and terms of payment etc.

Policy on price escalation

1284. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided in halt price escalation based on the input prices for a bulk drug beyond statutory three years lock-in period;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that price escalation is proposed to be allowed after technical input-output norms are determined for the next lock-in period by the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP);

(d) whether Government have taken any policy decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a), (c) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Do not arise.

Reversal of decontrol of Molasses distribution

1285. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations from State Governments to reverse decontrol of molasses distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of the problems being faced by molasses users due to decontrol; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government on the large profits being made by molasses producers ?